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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to document S/1996/603, concerning the simplification of the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized (rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council), and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The United Arab Emirates objects to the procedures set forth in document S/1996/603 for the removal from the list of matters of which the Council is seized of matters that have not been considered by the Council and to the deletion of the item listed in the annex to the document as No. 16, which is entitled "Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council" and which relates to the question of the Iranian occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

Until such time as the Islamic Republic of Iran terminates its illegal occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and the United Arab Emirates regains de facto control of the three islands, my Government requests the Security Council to retain in the list of matters of which it is seized the item relating to the question of the islands and listed as No. 16 in the annex to document S/1996/603. The reasons for this are as follows:

(a) The continued illegal occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Lesser Tunb and the Greater Tunb is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

(b) The Islamic Republic of Iran has not ceased to violate the memorandum of understanding of November 1971 through the measures it has taken and is continuing to take on Abu Musa with a view to imposing its control over the island and forcibly annexing it to Iranian sovereignty.

(c) My Government fears that the Islamic Republic of Iran would exploit the deletion of the item in question from the list of matters of which the Council is seized in order to perpetuate its occupation of the three islands and would use it as a pretext to evade the application of the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

In the light of the foregoing, my Government is prompted by the hope that the Security Council will retain the item relating to the question of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the list of matters of which it is seized. Should the Council decide to consider the retention of the item in the list of matters of which it is seized or its deletion therefrom at some time in the future, my Government requests the Council to inform it accordingly and to allow it the opportunity to participate in the relevant discussion in the Council's formal meetings, given that the issue of the three islands concerns the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates.

My Government takes this opportunity to affirm the desire of the United Arab Emirates for security and stability in the Arabian Gulf and to confirm its commitment to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative